

BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WORKSHOP
MONDAY, MAY 9, 2005

The monthly workshop of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in the Library of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, in Bristol, RI, on Monday, May 9, 2005. The Chairperson, Marjorie J. McBride, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Present: Marjorie J. McBride, William A. Estrella, Jr., William M. O'Dell, Thomas E. Skuba, Joyce M. Kinsella, John P. Saviano and Paul Silva; and Donna Bettencourt-Glavin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Grants; and Jane F. Correia, Director of Administration and Finance

Absent: Beverly Z. Travers

OPENING BUSINESS

All present were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

IMPROVING STUDENT BEHAVIOR PRESENTATION

Donna Glavin explained that the District has been working on communication between parents and the schools as well as improving student behavior; as a result a new philosophy in the strategic plan has been adopted. She introduced Dr. Carol Gaffney, a psychologist with an extensive background in performance improvement and human behavior. Dr. Gaffney reviewed the standards-based Program developed by the Improving Student Behavior Committee and a team representing the elementary, middle and high school levels. Such programs will soon be mandated by the State, so we are ahead of the game. Although the District had a number of programs in place, there were gaps and fragmentation, specifically in the leaps from Grades 5 to 6 and from Grades 8 to 9; prevention and behavior programs usually taught by social workers and psychologists need to be integrated into the classrooms. The program is built upon the common core principles of Respect, Responsibility, Integrity and Learning. Children need to know up front what is expected of them and what the consequences are. Expectations are consistent K – 12 but in different ways on different levels; all expectations are consistent with district policies and state laws. Embedded in the program are the five core social and emotional learning competencies developed by the State of RI—self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. Children need to learn how to think and to solve problems. In a discussion with Judith Saccardo, Dr. Gaffney learned that the State will probably be requiring PLP's for behavior sometime in the next few years. Research shows that

classroom time spent to explain how to behave and help students problem solve results in more learning and less frustration for students and teachers. It is hoped that a grant could be secured to do peer coaching for implementation

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dennis Gregson reported that the Rockwell project is on target to begin in mid-June; on Thursday the Committee will choose one of the four contractors who have bid on the project; final approval from the Planning Board is expected on June 7; still needed is DOT approval. The permitting process has begun for Colt Andrews and should be in hand by the 15th. The Hugh Cole design is about 60% developed.

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Thomas Skuba reported that the Committee, at their last meeting, discussed 1) the recommendation of an auditor (three bids were received); 2) facilities concerns—a fence near the high school field; and 3) possible cutbacks to bring the budget in line with our appropriation. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 24th.

PERSONNEL/CONTRACT SUBCOMMITTEE

Paul Silva said he will give details of the contract proposal in Executive Session.

POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

In the absence of Beverly Travers, no report was given.

Mr. O'Dell asked that the policy on out-of-state trips for students be reviewed to require at least two adult chaperones, regardless of the number of students attending.

Mrs. McBride also requested review of policy JFCG.

CHAIRPERSON'S UPDATE ON DISTRICT ISSUES

Byfield Fence: The Bristol Historic Commission did not approve of the proposed plan; Byfield and Reynolds parents consulted an architect who suggested a removable fence that is set up in holes in the ground; the new fence proposal will be presented to the Historic Commission the first week of June, then back to the Town Council.

Hearings at the Statehouse: Mrs. McBride and Dr. Mara were unable to attend the hearing on out-of-district bussing. Mrs. McBride encouraged everyone to attend hearings pertinent to the District, especially on the pension fund, as next year's contribution will be \$2M.

Per Pupil Costs: It was suggested that the public be informed of what goes into the per pupil cost—perhaps through weekly articles in the

newspaper or the weekly TV talk program being considered.

School Committee Scholarship: Mr. O'Dell proposed that the School Committee create a scholarship through monthly deductions from their stipend checks to be awarded to a Mt. Hope senior who will be pursuing a career in public education. The Committee will think about criteria for selection of the winner (interview, essay, interaction with community), a matching contribution from Feinstein, and tax deductibility, for discussion at the June workshop.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:55 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mr. Silva motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:55 PM to discuss the contract and personnel. Mr. O'Dell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 9:50 PM

Discussed in Executive Session was the contract and personnel.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:54 PM

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Kinsella, motioned to adjourn at 9:54 PM. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. O'Dell, Secretary

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